

BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

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A FINE job lot of "crooked" land agents of Garden City, have been bounced out of business by the powers that be, for taking in the unsuspecting "tender feet" with their ways that are dark and tricks that are vain.

AGAIN we want to put in a word relative to the question of lighting our streets. Strangers coming to our town are at a loss to know why Great Bend should be behind her neighbors in this particular when she is so far ahead of them in other improvements. Our people who chance to spend an evening in Larned "come back loaded to the muzzle with praises of the street lights down there, and still no action is taken toward perfecting arrangements for the lighting of our city. Light up, we say.

THE *Eagle-Optic*, in a lengthy article this week, explains how the silk culture station was moved from Larned to Peabody. We were ready to rejoice with our progressive sister when we learned that she was fortunate enough to secure this coveted prize; but now that it has been snatched from her we are ready to weep with her. If the statements of the *Eagle-Optic* are true a little investigation is in order, and if not true an investigation is still demanded to clear the calumny on some of those parties into whose hands the state has intrusted this matter.

In advocating the necessity of various public improvements we are met with the question of "how are we going to do it, with our present lack of ready cash?" This is a pertinent question, and one we would like to hear discussed by our citizens. We have heard talk of an occupation tax, one that would be fair and just to all branches of trade, and would, if levied give our council sufficient funds to go on with various little matters the aggregate of which makes a crying need for attention. If such a tax could be levied and collected with fairness and satisfaction to all we would heartily support the measure. Let us hear from our able financiers on the questions herein touched.

We do not want to offer any prediction that will cause the hearts of our people to sink or their enthusiasm to range in its high course; but the signs are ominous, and we cannot refrain from voicing a warning cry and putting you on your guard. There is trouble ahead. Within a few short days things will be torn upside down in our fair city. The souls of our brave citizens will be filled with perturbation and the soles of their feet with carpet tacks. Our eyes will be dimmed with the tears of discord and the dust of turned carpets, and anguish and cold grub will be the portion allotted to our male population, for the first of May will soon be upon us and house-cleaning time will appear.

THE CROPS.

The *Kansas Farmer* issued last week has a full report of the crops and stock in all parts of Kansas. The state is in good condition, farmers are at work with a will and a ceaseless tide of immigration is setting in. A summary of the report shows that the past winter was mild, especially favorable to stock, which is in better condition than usual at this time of year. Feed is abundant and stock was going out to grass in good health. Winter wheat is in good condition, though the acreage is not as large as in former years, and it needs rain in some localities. An increasing acreage of oats is sown, a great many fields are now green and the corn area will greatly exceed that of any former year. Tame grasses have done well generally, damaged in some places by the dry weather of last year. A great deal of grass seed is being sown this spring—more than ever before. Fruit prospect is good except for peaches. Immigration is mostly to the western counties, though a great many well-conditioned newcomers are scattering over the old counties, buying improved farms or going into business in the towns. The number of people coming in is large beyond all precedent. —*Lawrence Gazette*.

Medium: Whom do you wish to see, madam? My husband. He was allers asking people in this world. "Is it not enough for you?" and now I want to put the same question to him.

If a blind man gives a note "payable two days after sight," when does it become due?

OUR IMPROVEMENTS.

Everybody Busy — Carpenters, Painters and Masons AND ALL.

A Hurried Round-up of the Town — Buildings going up on Every Hand—The Sound of the Hammer is a Tinkling Harbinger of the Coming Growth of our City.

Making a hasty drive over the city, we were enabled to gather some interesting facts relative to what is being done to the resident portion of the town. Here are a few of the residences in course of construction:

J. A. Argabrite, handsome frame residence, to cost about \$2,500 on west side of the town.

C. B. Gillis, a large two-story frame with one-story wing—about ready for occupancy.

D. E. Hughes, two-story square frame, all inclosed.

Elmer Sowders, two-story frame, just finished, in southwest part of city.

J. H. Hubbard, a story and a half frame, Queen Anna style to cost, when completed, about \$4,000, on West Forest avenue.

O. A. Martin, a large two-story square frame, in College addition.

J. H. Harper, a fine, five-room frame with handsome porches, in Heizer Park addition.

John Frye, a large two-story frame cottage near College dormitory.

Will Bonner, a neat frame cottage; west side.

Dr. Hiss, frame addition to his residence on Forest avenue.

Chas. E. Sowle, a large two-story square frame with good stables and outbuildings; south part of city.

Prof. Wm. Reece, two-story frame addition to residence in northwest part of city.

Spencer & Spencer, large frame shop to take place of the old one which was too small.

Mrs. J. A. Minnis, neat frame cottage on East Broadway.

Mr. Elston, a neat frame cottage, east side of city.

E. G. Hill, neat story and a half frame, east side.

Mrs. Dunn, large two-story frame, east side of city.

James Slinn, a two-room frame addition, and new fences, etc., east side.

Frank Mayback, three-room frame cottage, east side.

R. T. Ewalt, large two-story frame just completed.

L. J. Barker, frame addition to residence on Broadway.

Besides these, there are twenty-five other residences in course of erection, the owners of which we did not learn, making a total of forty-four, in all, and the work on most of them was commenced within the last month. We found but one vacant house ready for occupancy, and understand this is already rented by a party who is moving his family here from the East.

WINDY KANSAS.

They call our fair state "Windy Kansas," the plodders beyond the great rivers, where they dwell, and dwell and dwell. If they were here this spring, they could give their derisive term a little meaning. For the wind blows with aggravating steadiness. But what matters it? Better a stout, wholesome gale than a wearying calm; better even a cyclone than stagnation. The dwellers beyond the Missouri and Mississippi stand or sit afar off and whistle at their little pine sticks and chatter in an unthinking way about Kansas, and prophesy evil times for her people. There is to be, of course, a grand bust-up of everything and they shake their heads and feel sorry for her. They should come west, these unchanging dwellers, and see for themselves—see a magnificent commonwealth, vast in area, abundant in resources, and throbbing with the intense energy born of this mingling of mental and physical electricity; where to conceive is to resolve; to resolve is to execute; to execute is to set one-half the country wondering and the other half waiting. Out here we like it—this rushing, whirling, never-let-up

style of carrying on our private affairs. Some things are done that don't suit all of us, some things left undone that some of us think ought to be done; but we know that all the time we are go-ahead with marvelous speed; that we are outstripping anything else on the road. And we don't propose to go slow or turn out lest there be a possible stump here and there. Let the dwellers toward the rising sun scare at stumps, start at shadows and stand still in dread of the exertion or the cost of moving; the people of Kansas are on the road at a winning gate, and they will "get there, Elif," because they have resolved to do so.—*Salina Herald*.

Albia Township Items.

Feeding times are over. Geo. Bicknell is getting out stone for another stock stable.

John Schwartz's children have been wrestling with the measles.

The fruit prospects seems still to be good and not seriously impaired by the late frost.

Miss Cope commences her first term of school at District No. 78 school house next Monday.

The school board of District No. 78 have contracted for new seats, desks, etc., to put in the school house.

Matt Lowers took in eleven dollars from the county treasury for wolf scalps, all captured from one nest.

W. D. Bradshaw, "Old Hermit," contemplates going into the lime burning business on his farm this season.

Numbers of our farmers had an over production of feed for stock last fall, which will go over for next winter.

Frank Eveleigh has improved his farm with a house, pasture, etc., but what is the cage worth without a bird to put in it?

One man we know of has taken the job, with a single team, of cultivating in good order, one hundred acres of corn this season.

The Missouri Pacific railroad company are building a large water tank on the creek south of Dan Linder's and are getting ready to build a new depot on or near the site of the one recently burned down.

FROM CLARENCE.

Calvin Reeder was in Great Bend Saturday.

August Bruiner is living upon Henry Elling's place.

Our postmaster, Mr. Wilkison, is selling groceries at Albert.

Wheat and oats are looking nicely. That rain insures a plentiful harvest.

"What has become of Ellinwood's boom?" inquires "H. H." Why, bless you, it has come to Clarence.

It was a "picture of whom," that we witnessed, when John Jurgensen's horses were having a picnic the other day.

Marquet Jurgensen is setting out a large number of fruit and ornamental trees this spring. Let us all follow Mr. J.'s example.

A few of our farmers are planting corn. Listing is rapidly gaining in favor among the "Sons of Toil" in this part of the county.

The beauty of our fertile valley is enhanced now, by great profusion of green leaves and white flowers upon the trees, which skirt the Dry Walnut.

Coyotes are getting to be very numerous out here and are developing an annoying amount of cheek and audacity. Why don't Clarence wake up, organize a ring hunt, and thus effectually get rid of these troublesome animals?

Last Friday while Albert Ehrensperger was raking up potato mulching his horse became disgusted with the high wind, and made up his mind to strike. This revolution he immediately put into effect by making 2:40 time for the stable, one mile distant. When Albert reached the stable—(curtain drops. Nothing was badly broken but Albert's temper and the third commandment, which was pardonable under the circumstances.)

BUCKEYE.

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